

# Giving Thanks

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, our thoughts usually turn to family, to tables laden with food, to the daily bounty we too often take for granted.

But when the Pilgrims gathered with their neighbors for that first Thanksgiving in a rough clearing in the Massachusetts wilderness, their thoughts focused not on bounty but on adversity overcome.

As they shared the fruit of their first harvest with the native Americans who had made it possible, their thankfulness was intensified by the hardships they had endured.

Never again would they ignore a child's laugh. Too many children lay silent in the alien soil.

Never again would they waste precious resources. They knew too well what it was to go without.

Never again would they take friendship lightly. They understood that they owed their survival and their future to the kindness of strangers.

Like those Pilgrims of so long ago, many Arkansans, when they gather with their friends and families this year, will have more to be thankful for because of the adversities they have overcome. Although they have faced great difficulties – financially, physically, and emotionally – they have survived and secured a better future for themselves and their families, thanks to the kindness of strangers like you.

Because of you, newcomers to our state are learning English. Your neighbors are getting a second chance to earn their high school diploma. Young people are learning valuable skills and developing a passion for their future occupation. Dislocated workers have hope for a better job. Soldiers arriving home from the battlefield know where to turn to prepare for the next phase of their life. People are developing their abilities rather than being defined by their disabilities. Agencies that make life better for everyone are able to expand their services.



## Learning Skills

High school students learn valuable job skills in career and technical education classes and put them to the test in state and national competitions.



## Enabled

At Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, the focus is on abilities – not disability. That focus enables people to find new definition for their life.



In your daily actions,  
you have given thousands  
of Arkansans hope  
and a reason to give thanks.

# Happy Thanksgiving!